



Bike Patrol 1988



Captain James Baird



Sergeant Roger Schmidt



Officer Mark Domangue



Officer Charlie Marti

BICYCLES ON PATROL

In 1988 Officer Mark Domangue, with support from his supervisor Sergeant Schmidt, explored the use of bicycles for patrolling downtown



Lincoln. The efficiency and effectiveness of bicycles for foot patrolmen was quickly proven to the rest of the department.

A local bicycle dealer, Bike Pedalers, helped get the department up and going with the donation of several mountain bikes. The first bike patrol was

Off. Mark Domangue first demonstrated the advantages of having officers on bicycles in the downtown area, 1988. (Journal Star Photo)

in the downtown area; later bikes were used in other neighborhoods. Because of their mobility, a patrolman could glide silently down quiet streets and was able to respond quickly to an emergency.

Officer Mike Bassett, who said he liked to attack crime aggressively, claimed that the bicycle gave him "crime-fighting characteristics" his marked police cruiser could not offer. In June 1988 Southwest Team officers on bicycles arrested 13 people, and recovered \$4,000 in stolen property during their investigations of 19 crimes.

"Officers feel as though they are doing something positive to protect the lives and property of people," said Capt. John Hewitt. The Bike Patrol let them do that. "Morale improved as a result."

The Lincoln Police Bike Patrol is the oldest such unit in the state. Several years into the program a core of officers, led by Sgt. Mike Siefkes, attended a Police Bike Patrol training session held in Boulder, Colorado. LPD's members have provided training to other law enforcement agencies when asked.

Currently unit members include Sergeant Siefkes, and Officers James Ashley, Michael Bassett, Robert Branch, Jeff Bucher, Tom Duden, Charles Marti, and Lance Worley.